

12 July 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Geographic Research

FROM: Acting Chief, Geography Division

SUBJECT: Geography Division Support for CIA Counterinsurgency Action

In accordance with your request, I am submitting herewith a summary of D/GG research activities since January 1961 that are considered to be related to Agency actions in the field of counterinsurgency and overseas internal defense.

a. Accomplishments since January 1961

Counterinsurgency actions in Southeast Asia have been supported by a number of geographic intelligence research studies. These have dealt with possible relocation sites for the Meo guerrillas; characteristics and paramilitary potential of the Kha tribes of southern Laos and the Moi tribes of South Vietnam; a proposal for a possible geographic partition of Laos; and detailed information concerning the "Ho Chi Minh Trail" as a route for infiltration into South Vietnam. In addition, a Geographic Intelligence Memorandum on Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Northeast Thailand was prepared which summarized and analyzed the significance of a number of aspects of the physical and cultural geography of the area that bear on counterinsurgency actions.

Twelve studies on Cuba have been prepared in support of Task Force W. These have included the preparation of detailed manuscript overlays to existing large-scale maps as well as the original compilation of four detailed maps. DD/P's critical need for large-scale maps of Cuba was met by arranging for priority reproduction of quantity distribution of several hundred map sheets.

Seven basic geographic studies with maps and annotated town plans for the Dominican Republic were prepared for DD/P operational planning during the unsettled period surrounding the death of Trujillo. These studies were part of the broad program of Latin American studies being done for WH/DD/P.

b. Current Activities

The Division is currently engaged in a broad project, responsive to NSAM 162, which is intended to study 11 critical countries to identify

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minority groups having an exploitable paramilitary potential. Countries

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A program is underway to issue a series of 20 studies on Cuba, in support of operational planning.

Aircrew E and E briefing aids for South Vietnam are being prepared for Agency operational requirements.

c. Projected Programs

The broad program for Latin American studies in support of WH/DD/P's long-range operational planning will continue after the more immediate Cuban requirements are satisfied.

The project for identification and study of possibly exploitable minority groups is expected to lead to continuing requirements for support as developmental plans for active exploitation of selected groups are implemented.

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